



CENTER
FOR
AQUATIC
SCIENCES

Overnight Frequently Asked Questions

Do you run Overnight Programs every weekend?

No. Overnight Programs run only on pre-arranged nights. See our website (www.aquaticsciences.org) for a full schedule.

Are there specific nights just for Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts?

No, all evenings are co-ed. If you require a sleeping area that is NOT co-ed, please contact us and indicate this on your Roster form.

What ages do you allow?

The Overnight Program is designed for children ages 6-12. Due to insurance restrictions, any children under 6 are unable to attend. Children over the age of 12 are welcome to attend, but please note that activities may be geared for younger children and anyone under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult chaperone.

No adult only groups will be permitted to attend.

What is your adult to child ratio?

We require **1 adult per every 5 children** attending the program.

Where will we be sleeping?

Guests will be placed in sleeping areas in front of exhibits that are appropriate to the size of their group. Due to the large size of most Overnights, we cannot confirm your sleeping area prior to arrival. Overnight Program guests will receive their sleeping assignments at 10:30pm the night of their program. Sleeping areas will be set up **after 10:30 pm** so that we can explore the Aquarium all evening without stepping over (or on) people's possessions.

What kind of accommodations can we expect?

The Overnight Program is an exciting adventure that lacks some of the comforts of home. For your safety, the aquarium is never completely dark. Within a large group, it is rarely totally quiet. We urge you to bring sleep masks and earplugs if these things are an issue for you. Necessities like bathrooms may not be located in close proximity to your group during the night. For your comfort, we suggest a bedtime bathroom run before "lights out".

What should we bring?

Please refer to the "What to Bring" document. Please keep in mind that you are responsible for carrying your own gear from the parking lot to the Aquarium, from our storage area to your assigned sleeping area, and back to your car in the morning. We strongly suggest packing lightly! We suggest no more than one backpack and sleeping bag for each member of your group.

Can we bring air mattresses?

All air mattresses must be no larger than twin size, **regardless of how many people will be sharing them**. Air mattresses and sleeping pads larger than twin sized make it impossible to leave a safe aisle for access overnight. Guests that bring air mattresses larger than twin size will be asked to deflate them. Cots and lawn chairs are also not permitted. Guests that bring these items into the Aquarium will be asked to leave them in the lobby to be picked up in the morning.

Can we bring our own food?

Outside food and drinks (other than bottled water) are not permitted in the Aquarium, unless a member of your group has special dietary needs (please call or email prior to your program to alert us of this!).

Please plan on eating dinner prior to your arrival.

What should we wear?

Guests should wear warm, comfortable clothes and dress in layers. Please keep in mind that there are no shower facilities or changing rooms available. We suggest wearing clothes that would be comfortable to sleep in, such as sweats, pajama pants and slip-on shoes. Guests should wear shoes throughout the event and may not walk around the aquarium in bare feet, especially in the rest rooms. Please note that while visiting the touch exhibits some clothing may get wet, so plan accordingly.

How do we find the Aquarium?

Visit www.adventureaquarium.com for directions. If using a GPS or internet mapping program, please use the address 2 Riverside Drive, Camden NJ 08103

How do you handle late arrivals?

The arrival time for all Overnight Programs is between 6:30pm and 7pm. It is strongly recommended that your group arrive on time. Our security and courtesy procedures are designed to accommodate guest arrivals up until 7:00pm. We are not able to reschedule activities (i.e. Top of Tank Tours, Touch Tank) for late groups the night of the event. If a guest is going to be running late, contact the Center staff immediately to see if arrival time can be accommodated.

Keep in mind that if members of your group are late:

- There are no longer attendants to point them to proper parking and unloading.
- There is no one at the Information desk to hand out schedules and unite them with your group.

They may miss scheduled activities. If it is unavoidable that you arrive after the Check-In time and you find that the Aquarium doors have been locked for the night, please contact a member of your group via cell phone, so that they may alert Center Staff and Security to let you in.

Obtain phone numbers from other members in your group in advance of your Overnight Program in case you need to contact them during the Overnight Program.

What does snack/breakfast consist of?

Snack – assorted sweet and savory snacks and juice

Breakfast - cereal & milk, assorted Grab & Go's, yogurt, juice, coffee and tea

What kind of deposit do you require?

A 25% non-refundable deposit is due when you reserve your space, and the remaining balance is due based upon the payment schedule found in your contract.

Can we get a refund on our final payment if members of our group can no longer attend after payment is made?

No. All final payments are non-refundable. If members of your group can no longer attend, you are responsible for finding replacements for them and must email the Center to update your roster.

Do Adventure Aquarium Passport Members get a discount?

We offer a 10% discount for Adventure Aquarium Members. Members may use their discount for their own ticket, or for their child's ticket, but only one discounted overnight per membership number. To obtain the discount, Members must register separately and not as part of a group registration. You will need your member number when registering. Please call us if you have questions.

What if my number of participants changes?

Notify us immediately of any increases in your numbers so we may make the proper arrangements. After final payments have been received, booking additional participants will be based upon availability up until the Monday prior to your program date. However, if you have a reduction in your participants after we have received your final payment, your numbers are locked in. We cannot offer refunds, so we suggest you find siblings or other adults to then fill open spaces.

What are the procedures for weather related cancellation?

If the Center needs to cancel an Overnight Program due to inclement weather, you will be notified by email noon the day of your program. Group leaders and all adult participants who have provided their emails will be emailed as soon as the decision is made, and the Overnight Hotline (856-361-1018) voicemail will be updated to reflect the decision. Group leaders should verify that all participants who have not provided emails are notified. **Please do not call the Aquarium to see if the event has been cancelled.** Please ask your chaperones to refrain from calling the Aquarium to see if the event has been cancelled. If you have not heard from us by 12pm the day of your program, please call 856-361-1018 to listen to the voicemail message.

If the event is cancelled, we will try to reschedule your group per the terms of your contract. If we cannot find a suitable event time, we will offer a full refund. If your group initiates the cancellation, we cannot refund any money.

Can I get a refund if my child is sick and cannot attend the overnight?

Unfortunately, we cannot grant refunds if you or your child is not able to attend the Overnight. We suggest you contact your group and see if there are other people who can fill your spots.

Where do we park?

Parking is available in the lot closest to the Aquarium main entrance, Lot #7, unless otherwise notified; A map will be included with the final parking email (available from your group leader). The cost per car is \$10 (rates are set by the Camden Parking Authority and are subject to change).

When does our Overnight end? Can we visit the aquarium the following day?

Wakeup call is 7 am. All gear must be removed from the Aquarium and returned to your vehicle 30 minutes prior to the building opening. Once the program is complete, you must purchase tickets to reenter the building.